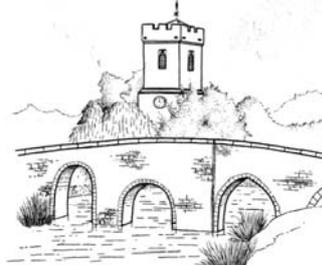


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21st April at 7.30 p.m. at
The Parish Meeting Room, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon**

ATTENDANCE

Cllrs. Mrs. Keeley (Chairman), Ms. Deacon, Gerrard, Hendey, Hill, Hiscocks,
Langston, Sandle, Spiers and Williams

County Cllr. Barnes

District Cllrs. James, Pemberton and Slaughter

Also present : approx. 35 members of the public

Cllr. Mrs. Keeley, Chairman of the Parish Council, chaired the meeting.

She welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman
2. The Chairman then read this year's Report which is attached hereto.
3. The Chairman then invited Matt Austin, Officer from Street Scene SDC to talk about the new refuse/recycling collection:
 - The new refuse/recycling collection will change dramatically from August this year, when it comes into operation.
 - The changes have been brought about due to EU legislation which is limiting the amount of refuse that can be sent to landfill and encourages recycling whenever possible. The percentage limits of what can be sent to landfill reduce every year and any local authority in breach on these limits, will be heavily fined – and this fine will, of course, be passed on to the rate payers! Hence the change to avoid this.
 - SDC acknowledge this is a great challenge, not only because of having to find ways of recycling more,, but also because on the continuously growing population which translates into more waste.

- From August 2008 the refuse collection will be in bins – and the lorries used to collect them will have appropriate hydraulic mechanisms to make this possible – although it does mean they will not be able to collect bags. Any property requiring bags to be collected will be visited by a smaller lorry.
 - **Green bins** – residents are already familiar with these. However, it will soon be possible to add “kitchen” waste – including meat etc. to the existing green waste. This is due to a new procedure, at higher temperatures, that will allow “food” to be composted. However, please note you will be advised as to **when** this will become possible.
 - **Blue bins** - they will replace the existing black boxes (resident will be able to keep the boxes and use them for other purposes should they so wish. If they wish to get rid of them, and cannot find a willing neighbor to take them, please contact SDC and they will arrange for them to be collected). Another plus, is that you will be able to add plastic, cartons and cardboard to the bin, as they will now be recycled.
Both Green and Blue bins will be collected on the same week.
 - **Grey bins** – this is for the general waste that cannot be recycled. You can continue to put your normal refuse bag into the grey bin should you so wish. **The grey bin will be collected on its own.**
- Anyone concerned about the bins getting dirty or smelly were advised that a bin cleansing system would become available throughout the district, albeit at a cost. Details would be given at a later stage when arrangements had been completed. However, any resident can clean their own bins should they so wish.
- Assisted collection was available to anyone over the age of 75 or suffering from a disability. Anyone who believed they were eligible to contact SDC.
- SDC had also received many calls regarding storage of the bins. Although SDC sympathise that storing the bins may not be the prettiest thing to have on the front of a house, there is no option but to use bins to conform with the new regulations regarding landfill. There were some properties – flats for example – where bins would simply not be an option, and in these, limited cases, bags would continue to be used.
- A resident asked what could be done to reduce the excess packaging bearing in mind the tax payer is in reality the end user! Matt Austin replied that there was very little SDC could do as this could only be driven by Central Government, and suggested residents write to their local MP asking that something be done.

4. The Chairman thanked Matt Austin and introduced the next speaker, Joanne Rooke, Community Engagement Officer at SDC to speak about the Intergeneration Project. Joanne, in turn, introduced Prof. Matt Kaplan, from the

Ben Johnson Foundation, who is on a sabbatical year at Keele University. Prof. Kaplan is attached to Penn University.

- Prof. Kaplan explained the idea of intergeneration – stating that these days there is very little understanding between members of the different age groups. This lack of understanding in turn generates fear, especially among the older members of society – the idea behind the intergeneration project is to try and bring the **whole** community together by means that are unique to each location or situation.
- He explained that Bidford had been chosen from a list of 40 applicants to run a pilot scheme. He would carry out 2 workshops at a date and time convenient to a majority of volunteers and teach them the tools required to promote intergeneration work within the village.
- The original dates chosen, two Thursdays in June, were not thought to be appropriate as so much takes place in Bidford on Thursdays so there would be very few available to volunteer. Having talked to possible candidates, it appeared Mondays would be the most suitable day of the week and June 16th and 23rd were provisionally chosen with the work shops running from 4.00 to 9.00 pm at the Crawford Memorial Hall, rear room.

Joanne thanked Prof Kaplan and then introduced Kully Takhar, Anti Social Behaviour Officer based at SDC.. She advised that she was a full time officer, Monday to Friday – she does not work weekends – but anyone can leave a message on her answerphone and she will call back.

- Kully explained how she tackled anti social behavior by writing letters to the parent of the nuisance offenders and drawing attention to their children’s behavior. The issue of ASBOs was only done as a last resort and, luckily, there were very few in place within the district.
- When asked if ASBOs were effective, Kully replied they most definitely were. One should not believe what is read in the press that they are a “badge of honour” etc. Having an ASBO means restriction in their way of life, difficulty obtaining a job, being pointed at by peers and being isolated.
- When asked whether residents should contact the Police or her, Kully replied that it very much depended on the incident. However, she did point out that anyone contacting her, she would advise the Police, but the reverse was not always the case. She suggested contacting the Police to obtain an incident number, and also advising her so that some positive action could be taken.
- She was also asked why there was more anti social behavior that in the past – to which she replied that one of the main reasons was a lack of tolerance. She gave instances when residents contacted her advising there were 2/3 youngsters standing outside their house; when asked what they were doing, the reply was that they were just standing there.
- She explained that groups of more than 2 can only be dispersed in a Dispersal Zone – areas where there is a continuous problem with groups

etc. can be nominated Dispersal Zones by the Police who then are able to take appropriate action.

The Chairman thanked all the speakers for taking the time to come to the Annual Parish Meeting and, before opening the floor, introduced the Village Crier Rory Duff. Rory informed all that he “cried” every Saturday in Barton, Broom, Marlcliff and Bidford and that any group or association who wanted an event to be made public, should contact him directly or via the Clerk and he would be more than happy to oblige. The most popular crying was at Warner’s Budgens,, where there is a captive audience, but he has been stopped by American tourists in Marlcliff and Barton as they walked or by the Cottage of Content!

5. Open Forum

- A resident asked Matt Austin why a questionnaire regarding the new refuse collection had been sent to residents in Stratford but not others. He replied that it was not sent out by SDC but that it was a Liberal Democrats pamphlet. He added he did not agree with its contents as he believed the questions were put in a somewhat tendentious way.
- Another resident advised that she had read in the press that the use of bins resulted in 1`6% more call out from the Fiore Brigade. Matt replied this could be possible, although there had been no increase with the introduction of the green bins a few years ago.
- A resident from Broom thanked the Council for sorting out the various problems he had raised at the Parish Council surgery. However, he would like to add that there were some dangerous potholes on the junction of Bidford Road with Wixford Road and perhaps the Council could bring it to the attention of the appropriate party. The Clerk to advise WCC accordingly
- Another resident asked when, if at all, the footpath on Grafton Lane would be widened to allow for push chairs etc, to be able to go on it. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council had met with WCC some years ago regarding this but that there was no solution at present – the road could not be narrowed to enlarge the footpath, and residents were unwilling to give up part of their gardens to allow the footpath to be widened!
- The Chairman made the following comments following a meeting held on Thursday 17th April regarding the land to the rear of the Fire Station:
 - The Clerk had checked with the insurance company regarding Public Liability – there is an umbrella cover for a limit of £5 million
 - A risk assessment was being carried out the next day
 - The dog bin was being removed and permission had been given by SDC to place it on the grass verge on the car park

- Cllr. Barnes **had** been advised regarding this issue by email in August 2007 and a “Return Receipt” had been received by the Clerk.
- Resident were reminded that no photos or videos of children under 16 could be taken.

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 9.00 pm and reminded residents there was an Annual Spring Clean taking place on Saturday 26th April @ 10.00 am. Meeting at the Court Way/Wards Lane car park. Bags and litter pickers would be provided but she recommended residents bring their own gloves.